

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation. In a democratic society such as ours, it is intensely important to allow equal time for all parties to speak. I would neither support a last-minute airing of "Stolen Honor" nor a last-minute airing of "Fahrenheit 9/11" without offering equal broadcast time to the opposite candidate.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Sinclair could support debates between local candidates but has instead chosen to impress its will on the local stations all over the country.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve a license REVIEW as well. Thank you.